21 Cornhill, Boston
May 4/58.

Dear Burleigh,

Yours, containing y^{r}. accounts showing a bal^{ce} of $9. due you, came to hand yesterday. I sent to your wife, as requested, that amount in a Check.
- Garrison and I read over y^{r}. letter together, & were much interested in it, & in the *revival* of your work in West^{n}-Maſs^{tts}. You are now, I take it, in the best sense, and closely after the original Christian & Apostolic manner, a "Bishop", an Επισκοπος, an Overseer - having *spiritual charge* of a considerable region, and ministering to various churches, or "assemblies", of those who "shall be saved" (if any are) from the doom sure to come on this sinful, unbelieving, slaveholding, and impenitent Nation. —

But I have a serious business matter and proposition to lay before you. "Give me your ears", (metaphorically) and your best attention, and take the subject into full consideration.

The _American Anti Slavery Society_, has been, _between you and me_, very greatly mal-treated, in the matter of its Annual Reports, for the past 2 years, i.e. for the year ending May 1. 1857, and for that ending May 1. 1858. — S. H. Gay, agreed to prepare the Report for the year ending May 1. 1857. At the time of the Annual Meeting (last May), no report was presented, and it was understood that Gay had done but little towards it, if he had anything. But he set to work upon it, and about August 1st he laid before the Executive Committee a pretty bulky MS., being perhaps two-thirds in quantity of what he designed to prepare for the said Annual Reports. The portion relating to the Passmore Williamson case was not quite correct, in the estimation of some members of the Committee, and Gay took the MS. back to N. Yk., with the view of re-writing that portion, ~~it~~, & of speedily finishing the Report. — From that time to this, no earthly power has sufficed to get Gay to touch that Report again. Though repeatedly applied to, to finish it for publication, *he has done nothing.* I consider this very ill treatment, in the circumstances, but it is of no use to complain about it. — — Our Committee, too, relied upon him (Gay) to write the Report for 1857-8, but having got so irretrievably behind-hand in regard to that for 1856-7 he cannot, of course, do anything on the year just closing, — as his new labors in the "Tribune" office are very engrossing.

Our Society is thus most decidedly "left in the lurch." It is not to be admitted, for a moment, that its series of Reports are now to be discontinued. In existing circumstances, ~~they~~ the Exec. Committee have *passed a Vote* – To request *you* to take Gay's MS. and complete the Report for '56-57; and then to prepare a Report for the year ending May 1/58 For this service they offer as compensation $75., – vizt. $25. for the former work, & $50. for the latter.

Do not hastily decide *against* the request. We think that you may very fitly and advantageously *vary* your Summer labours by introducing the preparation of these reports. I will not now go into particulars, more than to say that 1. We should not need or care for so *bulky* a report as we have sometimes had, and 2. That we will give all facilities in our power, and such a model or outline, as will enable you to proceed intelligently.

With sincere regard, Yours
Saml May Jr

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